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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

BARBARA CUBIN

WYOMING—AT LARGE

Opening Statement
of

The Honorable Barbara Cubin
Representative for All Wyoming

Subcommittee on Water and Power
Oversight Hearing on

**“How the Federal Power Marketing Administrations are Implementing the Energy Policy Act of
2005 and an Assessment of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Budgets for these Agencies”**

March 1, 2006

Mr. Chairman:

The west is blessed with an abundance of natural resources that help meet our nation's energy needs. However, while there continues to be a strong focus in Congress and industry to develop those resources, there has not, in my opinion, been an adequately equal focus on assuring that our interstate transmission system also continues to grow and evolve to meet the electricity demands of our nation.

The four Power Marketing Administrations play a vital role in developing the power transmission framework for our nation. I hope in today's hearing we will hear about how PMAs are utilizing new authorities granted under the Energy Policy Act to expand and improve grid reliability, increase utility coordination and make general infrastructure improvements.

I know we will also spend some time today discussing particular aspects of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget request. While I am pleased that this year's request did not include last year's misguided “market-based rates” proposal, there are several proposals – some administrative – that power users in my home state of Wyoming have expressed concerns about.

More specifically, I am interested to hear why the Pick-Sloan cost reallocation was once again included in the administration's budget request after Congress rejected it in no uncertain terms last year. I would also appreciate learning more about the proposed administrative change PMAs are expected to make to their borrowing rates on federal power investment. Just because an agency has been given a particular authority does not necessarily mean its implementation is the best approach.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for calling this oversight hearing on such an important topic to my constituents and I yield back the balance of my time.

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